



**Memphis-Shelby County Schools**  
**9-12 myPerspectives Reading Topics by Unit**



**Research is Clear**

- Students are able to build their vocabulary faster when they read multiple books, articles, and other texts on the same topic.
- When students are unfamiliar with a topic, it is harder for them to understand what they are reading and to learn new words.
- Reading several books, articles, and other texts on the same topic allows students to learn more and to learn faster.
- Students who read 20 minutes a day/5 days a week outside of classrooms are exposed to 1.8 million words in one school year and have an increase in critical thinking.

-NESCA, 2021

**How Parents Can Help**

- Below is a list of unit topics that are areas of focus throughout each grade levels' myPerspectives curriculum.
- By encouraging students to read about these topics at home, students have an opportunity to deepen their background knowledge. This will further support them in being prepared to learn in class!
- Students can use the same single sign on credentials used at school to access their myPerspectives online dashboard at home. Click [here](#) for more details regarding the student dashboard.

Ninth Grade	Eleventh Grade
<p><b>Unit 1-</b> American Voices: What does it mean to be “American”?</p> <p><b>Unit 2-</b>Survival: What does it take to survive?</p> <p><b>Unit 3-</b> The Literature of Civil Rights: How can words inspire change?</p> <p><b>Unit 4-</b> Star-Crossed Romances: Do we determine our own destinies?</p> <p><b>Unit 5-</b>Journeys of Transformation: What can we learn from a journey?</p> <p><b>Unit 6-</b>World’s End: Why do we try to imagine the future?</p>	<p><b>Unit 1-</b> Writing Freedom: What is the meaning of freedom?</p> <p><b>Unit 2-</b> The individual and Society: What role does individualism play in American society?</p> <p><b>Unit 3-</b> Power, Protest, and Change: In what ways does the struggle for freedom change with history?</p> <p><b>Unit 4-</b> Grit and Grandeur: What is the relationship between literature and place?</p> <p><b>Unit 5-</b> Facing our Fears: How do we respond when challenged by fear?</p> <p><b>Unit 6-</b> Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Tales: What do stories reveal about the human condition?</p>
Tenth Grade	Twelfth Grade
<p><b>Unit 1-</b> Inside the Nightmare: What is the allure of fear?</p> <p><b>Unit 2-</b>Outsiders and Outcasts: Do people need to belong?</p> <p><b>Unit 3-</b>Extending Freedom’s Reach: What is the relationship between power and freedom?</p> <p><b>Unit 4-</b>All that Glitters: What do our possessions reveal about us?</p> <p><b>Unit 5-</b> Virtue and Vengeance: What motivates us to forgive?</p> <p><b>Unit 6-</b> Blindness and Sight: What does it mean to see?</p>	<p><b>Unit 1-</b> Forging A Hero: What makes a hero?</p> <p><b>Unit 2-</b> Reflecting on Society: How do people come to have different views of society?</p> <p><b>Unit 3-</b> Facing the Future Confronting the Past: How do our attitudes toward the past and future shape our actions?</p> <p><b>Unit 4-</b> Seeing Things New: Why are both vision and disillusion necessary?</p> <p><b>Unit 5-</b> Discovering the Self: How do we define ourselves?</p> <p><b>Unit 6-</b> Finding A Home: What does it mean to call a place home?</p>

*Note: The topics listed above align with texts that students will explore during the specified unit. In most cases, each grade level will engage with approximately 1 and a half units per quarter (i.e., Quarter1=Complete Unit 1 and begin Unit 2).*

**The Big 3 Reading Questions...Great Questions to Discuss After Reading!**

- What’s something you read today and what was the most interesting part about it?
- Did you learn any new or difficult words? What do they mean?
- What was the most important part about what you read?